

## Remembering Bill Rogers

Can it really be more than 30 years ago that I met Bill Rogers, the first Executive Director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing? Bill hired me as his first State Interpreter Administrator, and for that I am eternally grateful.



*Dana Parker  
Guest  
Contributor*

By the time I was hired, the Commission had been providing information, referral and advocacy services and was already deeply involved in an intense endeavor to put together best practices in education of the deaf and hard of hearing children for Kentucky.

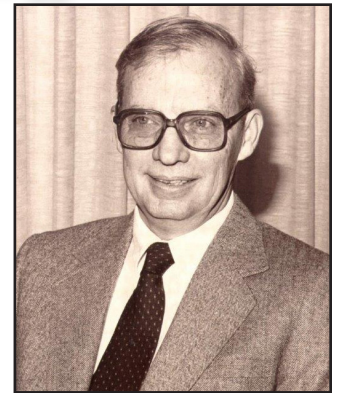
It was called the Task Force on Education and Eastern Kentucky University, the Kentucky School for the Deaf and many other entities were working together to compile a document that could launch the state forward in this area.

Bill also tasked me with establishing an advisory board of interpreters and deaf consumers to advise us on interpreter issues, with the first goal being to establish a state quality assurance program. At that time, Kentucky only had a few nationally certified interpreters and no interpreter training program. There were no requirements for interpreters to work in schools or anywhere else other than federal law requiring interpreters to be “qualified.” Some of the people hired as “interpreters” in schools and many other places were not at all qualified. So the program was established and dubbed Kentucky Interpreting Skills Screening, giving us a mechanism to screen people in order to determine their skill level prior to national certification.

It was not long before the Commission got the High Risk Registry passed into law to have newborns’ hearing screened before leaving the hospital. This led to the establishment of “Beginnings” at the Commission and having a focus of ensuring

the babies who failed the hospital screening were tested and intervention was given to those who had hearing loss. Then Kentucky became involved in the Sensory (Kids) Impaired-Home Intervention (SKI-HI) program doing more with regard to early intervention.

Next with the commitment and persistence of Paul Cross and Bill Rogers, legislation to establish Kentucky’s first Interpreter Training Program passed. That law also helped get access to a pool of money originally operated by the Council of Higher Education, but now administered by Vocational Rehabilitation, to allow



*Bill Rogers, KCDHH's first executive director*



*This photo was taken in 1982 to commemorate the establishment of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. From left, Terry Hostin, Jan Garrett, former Gov. John Y. Brown Jr., former KCDHH Executive Director Bill Rogers and Ann Rogers.*

*Continued on Page 2*

## Commission Members

### Amy Hatzel, Chair

Kentucky Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf President

### David Bayersdorfer

Alexander Graham Bell Association Representative

### Kelly L. Daniel

Kentucky Speech-Language Hearing Representative

### Becky Bush

Parent Representative

### Rebecca Crawford

AARP Representative

### Jeannie Taylor

Hearing Loss Association of America Representative

### Edie Ryan

Member At-Large

### Barbie Harris

Kentucky Association of the Deaf Representative

### John Horsley

Kentucky Association of the Deaf Representative

### Thomas O. Zawacki

#### (David Beach, Designee)

Education and Workforce Development Cabinet

### Audrey Tayse Haynes

(Michelle Niehaus, Designee)  
Cabinet for Health & Family Services

### Liz Agro

Service Provider Representative

### Sharon White

President of Kentucky Association of the Deaf

### Holly L. Evans

Kentucky Association of the Deaf Representative

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*Dana Parker, far left, and Bill Rogers, far right, at Mr. Rogers' retirement celebration in 1993.*

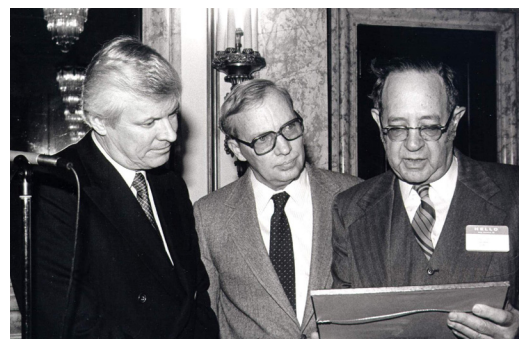
Kentucky colleges and universities to get reimbursed for providing interpreting and notetaking services to deaf and hard of hearing students.

Then the Commission got a law passed to recognize American Sign Language as a foreign language in Kentucky High Schools and Kentucky Colleges and Universities with foreign language credit to be given, if offered.

It was during Bill Rogers tenure and under his leadership that all of these things happened. He was assisted at every step of the way by the dedicated Commissioners, staff and deaf and hard of hearing community stakeholders.

These are some of the highlights of his administration. On a personal note, he was a very down

to earth and easy-going person who had compassion for people and wanted to improve the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people in Kentucky. He was a very kind person who cared about his fellow man and I considered him a friend. He will be greatly missed but his contributions will always live on.



*Former Gov. John Y. Brown Jr., Bill Rogers and Lewis Cole.*



# Coffee Chat

**Continue this conversation about Mr. Rogers by visiting our Coffee Chat vlogs!**

<http://www.kcdhh.org/vlog/?p=240>



# DeaFestival will stir your imagination

A showcase of short films by deaf filmmakers and a partnership with Louisville WorldFest are just two unique features of DeaFestival-Kentucky 2014, presented by the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Knowledge Center on Deafness.

DeaFestival, the state's only daylong celebration of deaf and hard of hearing art, language and culture, will be held Aug. 30 at the Kentucky Center in Louisville.

The theme of DeaFestival 2014 – “A World of Pure Imagination” – will be woven through the three performance programs beginning in the morning with the Children's Program featuring storytelling, music and poetry, and will continue that afternoon in Spotlights, a showcase for theatrical performers, dancers and comedians, and round out the day in the Jam Tent with the top deaf and hard of hearing hip hop and rock ‘n’ roll dancers and musicians in the nation.

Throughout the day, visitors can also see work by deaf and hard of hearing visual artists in the Elizabeth “Cookie” Williams Art Gallery.

Several visual and performing artists will combine to give Kentucky's deaf and hard of hearing community a family friendly day to remember.

This will be the 11th celebration of DeaFestival, which began in 1996 in Danville at the Kentucky School for the Deaf. It was held annually until 1998 when it became a biennial event. This year's DeaFestival will be the sixth to be held in Louisville. Last year, more than 10,000 people attended the event, which was held in conjunction with the weeklong

National Association of the Deaf biennial conference.

This edition of DeaFestival is also special because we are again partnering with Louisville's WorldFest, which runs Aug. 29-Sept. 1 on the Belvedere adjacent to the Kentucky Center. That event's mixture of international entertainment and cuisine will add to DeaFestival's distinctive celebration of culture.

Admission to DeaFestival and Worldfest is free. For information contact KCDHH at (800) 372-2907 or [www.deafestival.org](http://www.deafestival.org).



## SAVE THE DATE!

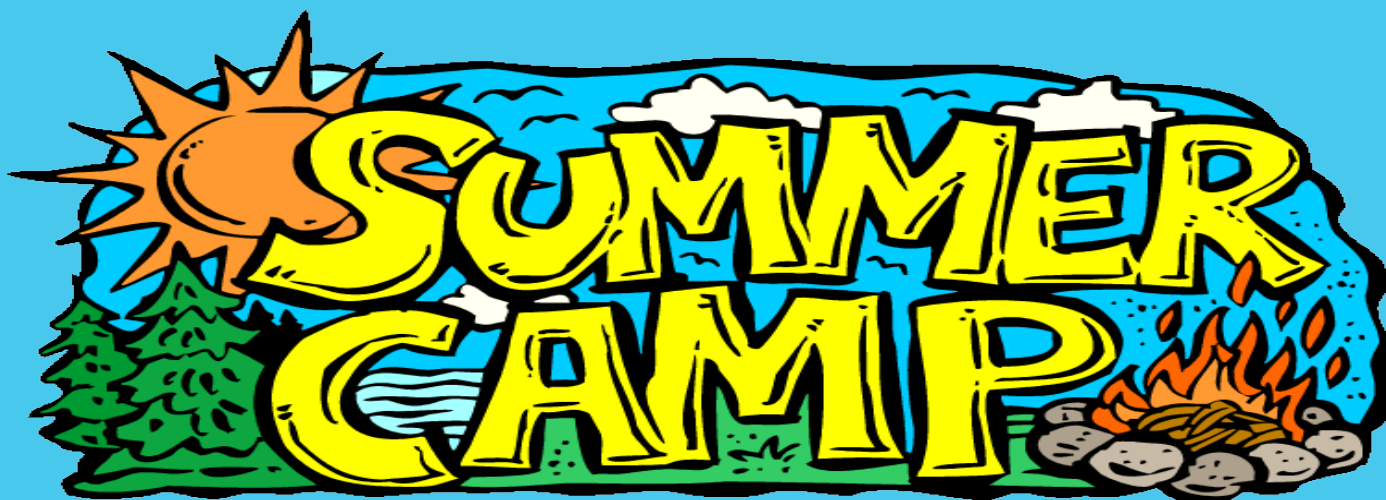
For this, our 11th production of DeaFestival Kentucky, we are partnering with the events of WorldFest, Aug. 29-31. Join us on Saturday, Aug. 30 for a celebration of deaf culture through art, storytelling, poetry and theatre, and stick around for all the excitement, culture and international flavor of WorldFest!

**AUG. 30, 2014 • KENTUCKY CENTER FOR THE ARTS • LOUISVILLE, KY.**

[www.deafestival.org](http://www.deafestival.org)



# ATTENTION ALL CAMPERS: LINE UP FOR FUN IN THE SUN!



**H**ey there, campers and moms and dads! Are you looking for fun (and educational) experiences this summer? Check out these opportunities for kids and families, pack your bag and report for fun!

## **IN KENTUCKY**

### **Lion's Club Crescendo**

*June 30-July 4*

1480 Pine Tavern Road

Lebanon Junction, KY 40150

(502) 833-3554

<http://www.lccky.org>

Contacts:

Will Mayer ([w.mayer@lions-campcrescendo.org](mailto:w.mayer@lions-campcrescendo.org))

Christina Turpen ([c.turpen@lions-campcrescendo.org](mailto:c.turpen@lions-campcrescendo.org))

### **Kentucky School for the Deaf**

#### **Family Learning Vacation**

*May 29-30*

303 South Second St.

Danville, KY 40422

Contact:

Linda Cannon (859-936-6722 or

[Linda.Cannon@ksd.kyschools.us](mailto:Linda.Cannon@ksd.kyschools.us))

### **Kentucky School for the Deaf Summer Camp**

*June 8-20*

303 South Second Street

Danville, KY 40422

859-239-7017

[www.ksd.ky.schools.us](http://www.ksd.ky.schools.us)

## **NATIONAL CAMPS**

### **National Association of the Deaf**

#### **Youth Leadership Camp**

*July 21 - Aug. 17*

[www.nad.org/ylccamper](http://www.nad.org/ylccamper)

### **National Campvention of the Deaf**

*June 15-21*

[www.nationalcampventiondeaf.org](http://www.nationalcampventiondeaf.org)

### **Aspen Deaf Camp**

*June 3-9 (Ages 8-12)*

*June 10-16 (Ages 13-17)*

[www.aspencamp.org](http://www.aspencamp.org)

### **KODA Camp (Camp Mark 7)**

Kids of Deaf Adults

*June 15-21*

[www.campmark7.org](http://www.campmark7.org)

## **EXPLORE OTHER OPTIONS!**

[www.gallaudet.edu/clerc\\_center/information\\_and\\_resources/info\\_to\\_go/resources/summer\\_camps.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/clerc_center/information_and_resources/info_to_go/resources/summer_camps.html)





# Former KCDHH staffer Harker appointed Gallaudet Board Chair



In February, Gallaudet University appointed former KCDHH staff member Heather Harker as its Chair of the Board of Trustees. We want to congratulate Ms. Harker on this appointment as we know her to be a strong, influential woman who is very capable of leading the board during the next few years. KCDHH Executive Director Virginia L. Moore asked Ms. Harker to talk about her vision for the university, as well as the experiences that led her to serve on the board.

## **How long had you served on the board prior to your selection as chair?**

I joined the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees (BOT) in October 2009.

## **How long is your term as board chair? How were you selected?**

I will officially begin my one-year term as Chair in October 2014. The BOT felt that I brought a wealth of experience due to my service on the board of directors of other organizations, as well as having been through two previous executive transitions at Deaf Inc. and The Learning Center for the Deaf in Massachusetts. Professionally, I have led a team that has supported more than 100 organizations manage executive transitions through my role at the nonprofit capacity building firm of Third Sector New England in Boston, where I have worked since 2001. This experience in managing leadership transitions, much like what Gallaudet

will experience with the retirement of Gallaudet University President T. Alan Hurwitz after Dec. 31, 2015, is something I can bring to my tenure as chair.

## **Are you the youngest person ever selected as chair of the board of trustees?**

I am not sure, but I can say that I am 43 years old.

## **What are some of your goals for Gallaudet during your tenure as chair?**

My first goal is the continued implementation of the goals of the Gallaudet Strategic Plan which consists of enrollment, persistence to graduation, resource efficiency, academic programs, and research and outreach. In addition, we will be starting the planning phase for the next iteration of the Gallaudet Strategic plan in the near future.

Second, I would like to focus on what universities refer to as “shared governance.” An ad hoc committee is being established consisting of the members of the BOT, faculty and administration to come to a mutual agreement on the definition of shared

governance and what it means to the Gallaudet community.

Third, a critical area for Gallaudet right now is diversity and inclusion in terms of our students, faculty, staff, as well as among our BOT. As Chair, one of my primary responsibilities is to recruit potential new trustees and I will be approaching this task with a deep understanding of the need to identify and cultivate diverse leaders at the University.

Finally, Gallaudet University’s current president, Alan Hurwitz, will step down in December 2015 which means that the search process for a new University president will be launched during my tenure as chair. My goal is to initiate a successful search process that engages the Gallaudet community and helps the BOT to select candidates that will ensure continued vision, success and vibrant future of the 150 year old university.

**As a woman who has a hearing loss, your experience has run the gamut of communication modes – raised in an oral environment, learning American Sign Language,**

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using a cochlear implant, working in a hearing environment. How has that formed you as a professional and how do you think that will guide you as an institutional leader at the nation's flagship educational higher education facility for deaf and hard of hearing students and scholars?

I was raised speaking and lipreading only and learned sign language later in life. I attended Boys Town camp as a teenager and am grateful to them as well as the deaf community in Rhode Island which was a vital part of my life during my college years. After college, my experiences in the deaf communities of Malaysia and Kentucky further influenced me. Later in life, I obtained a cochlear implant (which I see as basically a sophisticated hearing aid) and have worked professionally in both the deaf and hearing communities. I believe that my mix of experience is well aligned with Gallaudet's bilingual mission and will help me as I aspire to serve all deaf, hard of hearing and hearing students, faculty and staff who, collectively, make up the Gallaudet community.

**Your background is rich in international relations. Will you use those experiences to try to attract more international students to Gallaudet?**

My experiences living and working with the deaf community in Malaysia is where I first began to see the value of Gallaudet in terms of serving as a beacon of "possibility" for the international deaf community. Even deaf students in rural areas of Malaysia were aware of Gallaudet and held it with deep respect. My recent trip in



*Heather Harker, left, and former KCDHH Executive Director Bobbie Beth Scoggins.*

November 2013 with Discovering Deaf Worlds to the Philippines reinforced for me the unique role Gallaudet plays in the international deaf community. Although I am not directly responsible for recruitment, one of the objectives within the Gallaudet Strategic Plan is to recruit more international students and I'm delighted to help the university in those efforts as appropriate for my position as Chair.

**In your opinion, is Gallaudet adjusting to the diversity of today's deaf undergraduates (i.e. an increase of cochlear implant users who may not know ASL)?**

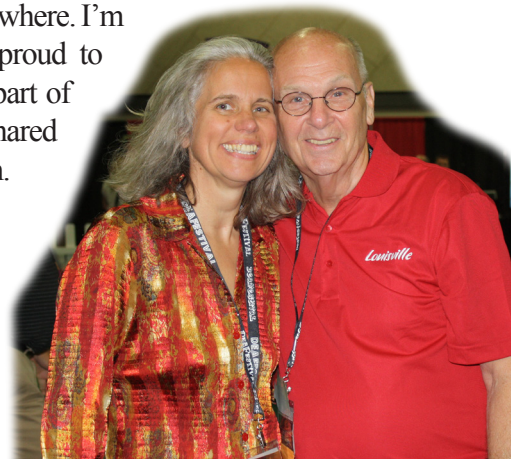
Absolutely. Gallaudet welcomes students of all communication backgrounds whether they are culturally deaf, hard of hearing, mainstreamed students and deaf-blind students. Approximately 10 percent of our undergraduate students have cochlear implants. In addition, for students who are new to sign language, Gallaudet offers an excellent program titled

"JumpStart" to orient students to sign language, Deaf Culture, and Gallaudet's bilingual campus community.

**What did you learn from your experiences in Kentucky that has helped you in your subsequent professional roles and that you will take with you into this important leadership position at Gallaudet?**

Following my work in Malaysia, I returned home to Kentucky as a young professional and became involved with the KCDHH as well as the Kentucky Association of the Deaf. I had excellent mentors who helped shape my way of thinking, my values as well as develop my skill set. I am particularly indebted to Cole Zulauf and Bobbie Beth Scoggins for their mentorship and constructive feedback. A key learning experience for me in Kentucky that has stayed with me through the years was the design and launch of the first few DeaFestivals. Seeing how so many people with a shared passion and commitment to something larger than themselves and to create something extraordinary is a lesson. That is how I feel about Gallaudet, because there are so many people from students, faculty, staff and alumni – as well as the deaf community at large – who care deeply for Gallaudet and its continued success. It is the coming together of this shared passion and commitment that makes Gallaudet such a beacon of possibility for deaf people everywhere. I'm very proud to be a part of that shared vision.

*Heather Harker, left, and KCDHH staff member Cole Zulauf at the 2012 National Association of the Deaf biennial conference.*





**DeafandHohKids.com**

# Connecting Kids and Teens

**By Elizabeth Kuhn**  
**DeafandHoH.com**

**W**e are expanding! As another form of the already popular DeafandHoH.com, we are creating a new website for kids and teens to connect and learn from each other called DeafandHoHkids.com. This website is being designed to provide kids and teens with support, inspiration, and advice, as well as advocating for new opportunities and programs to get involved in. Our main goal is to create a safe place for the next generation to explore how much there is to offer, regardless of their hearing loss. We want to create a close-knit, supportive community that motivates young people to set and accomplish goals for themselves, find a positive influence or role model to inspire them, and generate an overall positive outlook on life.

We are reaching out to younger kids by including games and activities that entice them to learn. We will be featuring a cool kids section where members of the site DeafandHoHkids.com will have an article written about them, which will include their accomplishments and their future goals. Furthermore, we plan to highlight

potential programs and camps/groups that kids might be interested in through a resource section. We truly hope this website can become a safe place for learning, inspiring, and motivating this youth community.

Not only do we want to reach out to younger kids, but also teenagers who are experiencing difficulty accepting their hearing loss, those who are looking for opportunities and ways to get involved, as well as empowering them through their major transitions during this stage of life. Becoming an adult is hard, and perhaps especially so when one is deaf or hard of hearing, and potentially one of the only deaf or hard of hearing kids in one's community. It is normal for teens to think they are limited to a certain amount of success, and believing they have to reel in their dreams; however, we want to overcome this fear with them, and allow them to realize what is possible, and that countless others are experiencing both victories and difficulties, too.

In addition, we will be including a social media aspect to our page through a compiled archive of tweets, Facebook posts, and possibly blog posts that are related to deaf and hard of hearing topics. Our main goal for this

particular aspect of DeafandHoHkids.com is empowerment. Teenagers are our next generation, and we want to give them the motivation, support, and mobility to become the absolute best they can be.

Our website is currently in the design stage but progressing quickly. It will be open for kids and teens to communicate attending either deaf or mainstream schools. We want to create a safe environment that both kids and parents feel comfortable with, so chat rooms will be always be monitored by a contributor of DeafandHoH.com. All conversations during the chat room are recorded as well, and parents are always welcome. Our team is passionate and thrilled to present what we have to offer. Stay tuned for more information, and the opening of this new website. For now, please check out DeafandHoH.com and join our growing community!

*Reprinted with permission from the Hands & Voices Communicator; Winter 2014 Volume XVII, Issue 2. Hands & Voices is dedicated to supporting families with children who are Deaf or Hard of hearing without a bias around communication modes or methodology. See more about our mission and vision, our resources for families and professionals, our products and programs at [www.handsandvoices.org](http://www.handsandvoices.org).*



## Join the DeafandHoH Kids Community!

- ★ Find **summer camps** and **daycares**
- ★ Meet the *Cool Kids*
- ★ Have fun with **games** and **activities**
- ★ Check out **Open Chat Night**



**KCDHH**

632 Versailles Road

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

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# KCDHH Town Hall Meetings!

## Next...we're coming to Bowling Green!

**Friday, April 25, 6-8 p.m., CST**  
**Country Inn & Suites**  
**535 Wall Street, Bowling Green, Ky.**

*Come enjoy good conversation as we talk about issues important to deaf and hard of hearing Kentuckians.*

